

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Prior to this Amendment, claims 1-18 were pending in the application (with the renumbering of the second claim numbered "12" renumbered to claim 18).

Claims 1-6 are directed to a non-elected invention, and these claims are cancelled to hasten allowance of the application.

Claim 7 is amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 16, which was found allowable if rewritten in independent form, i.e., claim 16 is rewritten in independent form by bringing its limitations up into base claim 7 (which could also have been done by bringing the limitations of claim 7 down into claim 16 and neither amendment form is an amendment performed to address a rejection based on the cited references). Claim 16 is cancelled.

New claims 19-22 are added with support found at least in the original claims. Independent claim 19 is directed to a control unit with similar limitations as claim 7, while providing varying degrees of protection for the invention. Claim 19 is believed to include the allowable subject matter of claim 7 and to be allowable for the reasons for allowing claim 7.

New claims 23-26 are added to protect the concepts of a home automation system in which differing controllers operate with differing contexts for the same operating state and in which the control units may display similar information in differing ways depending on the room they are positioned in or based on an operator. Support for these claim amendments is found at least in the original claims and Figures 3-7 and associated portions of Applicant's specification.

After entry of the Amendment, claims 7-15 and 17-26 remain for consideration by the Examiner.

### **Elections/Restrictions**

The Examiner restricted originally-filed claims 1-18 into two groups as being directed to two distinct inventions. Specifically, claims 1-6 were placed in Group I and claims 7-18 were placed in Group II. With this Amendment, Applicant affirms the provisional telephony election by Stuart T. Langley to prosecute the invention of Group II (i.e., claims 7-18) without traverse. Further, in this regard, claims to the inventions of Group I are cancelled with this Amendment.

### **Drawing Objections**

In the Office Action, the Examiner on page 4 indicated that Figures 1 and 5 included numbered elements not mentioned in the description and required a drawing change or amendments to the specification. Amendments to the specification are provided to address this objection

### **Specification Objections**

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted an informality on page 20, line 3, and Applicant has amended the specification to address this informality.

### **Claim Objections**

In the Office Action, it was noted that there were two claims numbered "12." The Examiner renumbered the second claim 12 as claim 18, and Applicant affirms this change with an amendment to renumber the second claim 12 to be claim 18.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

Further, in the Office Action, claim 16 was objected to as depending from a rejected base claim but was found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In this regard, claim 16 is rewritten in independent form by bringing its limitations up into base, independent claim 7. As a result, claim 7 and claims 8-15, 17, and 18, which depend from claim 7, are believed in condition for allowance.

### **Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102**

The June 8, 2005 Office Action rejected claims 7, 14, 15, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,389,124 ("Schnarel"). This rejection is traversed based on the following remarks.

Independent claim 7 is amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 7, which the Examiner found allowable over Schnarel if it was rewritten independent form. As a result, claim 7 and claims 14, 15, and 17, which depend from claim 7, are believed allowable over Schnarel.

**Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103**

Additionally, the June 8, 2005 Office Action rejected claims 8, 9, 12, 13, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schnarel in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,086,385 ("Launey"). This rejection is traversed based on the following remarks.

Claims 8, 9, 12, 13, and 18 depend from claim 7, which is amended to include the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 16. Hence, claims 8, 9, 12, 13, and 18 are believed allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. Further, Launey fails to teach the limitations of dependent claim 16, and as a result, claim 7 is believed to be allowable over the combined teachings of Schnarel and Launey.

Yet further, the June 8, 2005 Office Action rejected claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schnarel in view of Official Notice (labeled "logical reasoning" in the Office Action). This rejection is traversed as claims 10 and 11 depend from independent claim 7, which is allowable over Schnarel considered alone for the reasons provided above. Further, Official Notice is not taken for overcoming the deficiencies in Schnarel with reference to claim 16, and hence, the combination of Official Notice and Schnarel do not teach the control unit of claim 7 (as amended).

**Conclusions**

Based on the above remarks, it is requested that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

A check is provided with this Amendment for the fee for a 2-month time extension; however, any fee deficiency associated with this submittal may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1123.

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Respectfully submitted,



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